

Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) A method of ~~delivering~~ picking a sheet notes ~~generally one at a time~~ from a stack of sheets notes, comprising:

- (a) engaging an end sheet note bounding a stack of sheets notes with a movable engaging portion, wherein the movable engaging portion is in supporting connection with and movable relative to a rotatable picking member, wherein the picking member generally rotates about a first axis;
- (b) rotating the picking member about the first axis in a picking direction with the engaging portion in engagement with the end sheet note, wherein the engaging portion generally does not move radially relative to the end sheet note as the end sheet note moves relative to the stack;
- (c) during execution of step (b) moving the engaging portion radially outward relative to the first axis as the picking member moves relative to the engaging portion, wherein additional force tending to move the end sheet note from the stack is applied with increasing radially outward movement of the engaging portion.

2. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the picking member is in generally abutting relation with a stripping member, wherein the stripping member generally prevents all but the end note from moving from the stack upon rotation of the picking member in the picking direction, and further comprising:

(d) ~~moving the end note between the picking member and the stripping member as the end note moves relative to the stack~~

rotatable about the first axis in moving the end sheet from the stack, wherein the engaging portion is pivotable about a second axis, wherein the second axis is disposed radially from the first axis, and wherein (c) includes rotating the picker member about the first axis and pivoting the engaging portion about the second axis.

Claims 3-37 (canceled)

38. (new) The method according to claim 1 wherein in step (c) the engaging portion moves radially outward responsive to angular movement of the picking member in the picking direction exceeding angular movement of the engaging portion in the picking direction.

39. (new) The method according to claim 38 wherein in step (c) the engaging portion moves further radially outward responsive to an increasing difference between angular movement of the picking member and the angular movement of the engaging portion.

40. (new) The method according to claim 1 wherein the picking member comprises a generally cylindrical portion, and wherein the engaging portion includes a generally arcuate segment of the cylindrical portion, and wherein in step (c) the arcuate segment moves radially outward.

41. (new) A method of picking a sheet from a stack of sheets, comprising:

- (a) engaging an end sheet bounding the stack with an engaging portion operatively connected to a picking member;
- (b) applying increasing engaging force between the engaging portion and the end sheet responsive to the end sheet not moving relative to the stack responsive to movement of the picking member.

42. (new) The method according to claim 41 wherein step (b) comprises moving the engaging portion relative to the picking member to apply increased engaging force to the end note.

43. (new) The method according to claim 42 and further comprising rotating the picking member about a first axis in a picking direction, and wherein step (b) comprises moving the engaging portion radially outward relative to the first axis.

44. (new) The method according to claim 43 wherein step (b) comprises moving the engaging portion radially outward responsive to angular movement of the picking member in the picking direction exceeding angular movement of the engaging portion in the picking direction.

45. (new) An apparatus including the engaging portion operatively connected to the picking member and operative to carry out the method steps recited in claim 41.

46. (new) The apparatus according to claim 45 wherein the engaging portion is movably mounted in supporting connection with the picking member.

47. (new) The apparatus according to claim 45 and further comprising a movable member, wherein the movable member is movably mounted in supporting connection with the picking member wherein the engaging portion is in supporting connection with the movable member.

48. (new) Apparatus comprising a rotatable sheet picking member and an engaging portion, wherein the engaging portion is operatively connected to the picking member, wherein the engaging portion is operative to engage an end sheet bounding a stack of sheets, wherein the engaging portion is operative to move radially outwardly relative to the end sheet to apply an increasing engaging force to the end sheet responsive to the end sheet not moving relative to the stack responsive to movement of the picking member.

49. (new) The apparatus according to claim 48 wherein the picking member is rotatable about a first axis, wherein the engaging portion is pivotable about a second axis, wherein the second axis is disposed radially from the first axis, and wherein the picking member is operative to rotate about the first axis in picking the end sheet from the stack.

50. (new) A method of picking a sheet from a stack of sheets, comprising:

(a) engaging an end sheet bounding a stack of sheets with a radially movable sheet engaging portion, wherein the engaging portion is in supporting connection with and movable relative to a rotatable sheet picker member,

(b) rotating the picker member generally about an axis in a picking direction with the engaging portion in engagement with the end sheet,

(c) responsive to initial rotation of the picker member in attempting to pick the end sheet from the stack, either:

(c1) moving the engaging portion radially outward to apply an increased engaging force on the end sheet, responsive to the end sheet not initially moving in coordinated relation with the rotating picker member, or

(c2) precluding radially outward movement of the engaging portion as the picker member rotates, responsive to the end sheet initially moving in coordinated relation with the rotating picker member.

51. (new) The method according to claim 50 wherein (c1) includes moving the engaging portion radially outward to apply an increased engaging force on the end sheet, responsive to the end sheet not moving at the same speed as the picker member.

52. (new) The method according to claim 50 wherein (c2) includes maintaining the engaging portion from moving radially outward as the picker member rotates, responsive to the end sheet moving at the same speed as the picker member.

53. (new) The method according to claim 50 wherein (c1) includes moving the engaging portion radially outward to apply an increased engaging force on the end sheet as the picker member rotates.

54. (new) The method according to claim 53 wherein (c1) includes applying increasing force on the end sheet with increasing radially outward movement of the engaging portion.

55. (new) The method according to claim 50 wherein the picker member is rotatable about a first axis in moving the end sheet from the stack, wherein the engaging portion is pivotable about a

second axis, wherein the second axis is disposed radially from the first axis, and wherein (c1) includes pivoting the engaging portion about the second axis.